selection quota cannot be operated for filling the vacancies for promotion and direct recruitment quotas.

Characterisation of air hostesses and flight pursers

3238. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India and Indian Airlines have characterised the categories of air hostesses and flight pursers on sex basis;

(b) what are the reasons for this differentiation and the details of the duties performed by those belonging to different categories;

(c) whether the flight pursers were allowed to fly as Air Hostesses by Air India; and

(d) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) In Air India the duties of the air-hostesses and flight pursers are not identical.

In Indian Airlines, however, female cabin crew are designated as air-hostesses and male cabin crew as flight pursers and both these categories perform identical duties and are appointed on the same scales of pay.

(b) In accordance with an agreement arrived at between the management of Air India, Air hostesses and Flight pursers are separate cadres. In Indian Airlines, is no differentiation between the two.

(c) and (d) In 1984, due to reduction in the frequency of flights, Asstt. Flight Pursers were surplus in Air India and there was shortage of air hostesses. Therefore, at the request of the Asstt. Flight pursers, who otherwise could have been retrenched, they were allowed to perform the duties of air hostesses. However, in course of time the position of surplus Asstt. Flight Pursers ceased to exist and they continued to work as Asstt. Flight Pursers.

Recruitment of air hostesses in Air India

3239. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether any rules are in force for constitution of a panel for recruitment of Air hostesses in Indian Airlines and Air India;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any provision for inducting the Chief Air Hostess in the final selection panel; and

(d) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The recruitment of air hostesses in Indian Airlines and Air India is made in accordance with Recruitment and Promotion Rules. As and when vacancies arise, an advertisement is issued inviting applications for the posts. The eligible candidates are subjected to group discussion and those qualified are interviewed by a Selection Board as provided for in the Recruitment and Promotion Rules. The candidates found suitable are empanelled for appointment as air hostesses. The Selection Board in Indian Airlines and Air India consists of the following:—

Indian Airlines

(i) Regional Director or his nominee